

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

NOVEMBER 5, 2014

Report back on Proposition 47

Once again Los Angeles County voters have expressed their support for reform of the criminal justice system by supporting ballot measures by margins in excess of the statewide average. In 2012, Proposition 34 (Death Penalty Reform), Proposition 35 (Human Trafficking Sentencing) and Proposition 36 (Modification of Three Strikes Laws) were overwhelmingly approved in Los Angeles County. Yesterday's election continued this trend. Statewide, Proposition 47 passed 58.5 percent to 41.5 percent. Los Angeles County voters supported the measure 63.4 percent to 36.6 percent.

Increasingly, voters are rejecting criminal justice policies as unsustainable uses of their tax dollars that rely on building and operating more prisons and jails to address community safety concerns. Instead, they are demanding that policy makers and law enforcement officials pursue evidence-based alternatives designed to keep low-level offenders out of prison and jail and break the cycle of expensive incarceration.

According to the non-partisan Office of the Legislative Analyst (LAO), Proposition 47 "reduces penalties for certain offenders convicted of non-serious and nonviolent property

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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
NOVEMBER 5, 2014
PAGE 2

and drug crimes.... In addition, the measure requires any state savings that result from the measure be spent to support truancy (unexcused absences) prevention, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and victim services as follows:

- 25 percent for grants aimed at reducing truancy and drop-outs among K–12 students in public schools.
- 10 percent for victim services grants.
- 65 percent to support mental health and drug abuse treatment services that are designed to help keep individuals out of prison and jail.”

The LAO estimates that Proposition 47 “could eventually result in net state criminal justice system savings in the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually” and “net criminal justice system savings to the counties of several hundred million dollars annually, primarily from freeing jail capacity.”

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Sheriff, Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, District Attorney, Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender to identify the policy implications of passage on jail population management;
2. Direct jail construction planners to estimate the impact implementation of Proposition 47 will have on the size of the County jail population and the need for beds and the policy assumptions used to make this determination;

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
NOVEMBER 5, 2014
PAGE 3

3. Direct the CEO in consultation with the Departments of Probation, Mental Health, the District Attorney and the Los Angeles County Office of Education to begin identifying those existing evidence-based truancy prevention, mental health and drug abuse treatment programs designed to keep offenders and potential offenders out of prison and jail that would be the most competitive for any new grant funding from the State;
4. Request that the District Attorney identify victims service programs that would merit additional State grant funding; and
5. Report back, in writing, to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days.

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